

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2003 - 0056

AUTHORIZING A RESOLUTION ADOPTING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS
THAT ESTABLISH MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DESIGN,
CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND CLOSURE OF SOLAR EVAPORATORS AS
COMPONENTS OF INTEGRATED ON-FARM DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT
(IFDM) SYSTEMS

WHEREAS:

1. The sustainability of approximately one million acres of productive agricultural land on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley is threatened by rising shallow groundwater of poor quality.
2. Recommended measures contained in *A Management Plan for Agricultural Subsurface Drainage and Related Problems on the Westside San Joaquin Valley*, to provide short-term agricultural drainage relief, include sequential drainage reuse or IFDM systems.
3. IFDM systems require an evaporation system as the final component for the separation and collection of salt.
4. The Legislature has found that IFDM is a sustainable system of managing salt-laden farm drainage water. IFDM is designed to eliminate the need for off-farm drainage of irrigation water, prevent the on-farm movement of irrigation and drainage water to groundwater, restore and enhance the productive value of degraded farmland by removing salt and selenium from the soil, conserve water by reducing the demand for irrigation water, and create the potential to convert salt from a waste product and pollutant to a commercial farm commodity.
5. The Legislature has found it is the policy of the state to conserve water and to minimize the environmental impacts of agricultural drainage. It is therefore in the interests of the state to encourage the voluntary implementation of sustainable farming and irrigation practices, including, but not limited to, IFDM as a means of improving environmental protection, conserving water, restoring degraded soils, and enhancing the economic productivity of farms.
6. The Legislature has directed the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), on or before April 1, 2003, to adopt emergency regulations that establish minimum requirements for the design, construction, operation, and closure of solar evaporators. The SWRCB granted a delay in adoption as requested by other State agencies and stakeholders.


7. This action to adopt emergency solar evaporator regulations is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(4).
8. The SWRCB has developed new solar evaporator regulations in compliance with Senate Bill 1372 (SB 1372) to be located within California Code of Regulations Title 27, that facilitate the development and implementation of solar evaporators as components of IFDM systems, while protecting avian wildlife safety and groundwater quality.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board adopts emergency regulations (see attachment) that establish minimum requirements for the design, construction, operation, and closure of solar evaporators as components of IFDM systems in compliance with SB 1372.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 16, 2003.


Debbie Irvin
Clerk to the Board